

In order to confirm that the Senate is prepared to begin business in the second session of the 106th Congress, I now suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOME TO SENATORS AND STAFF

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in welcoming back our colleagues, the President pro tempore, our Chaplain, and our staff. I think we all had a wonderful break. It is good to be back and see so many friendly faces.

The majority leader and I had a good conversation earlier today and discussed a number of matters to be addressed in the early days of this session of Congress. I look forward to working with him and with our colleagues as we begin this second session of the 106th Congress.

I might inquire, has the majority leader finished? I didn't want to interrupt.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could respond to the distinguished Democratic leader, if he wishes to make a statement at this time that would be fine, but we need to establish a quorum so we can notify the President that the Senate is ready to work.

The Senator can make his statement now or we can establish a quorum.

Mr. DASCHLE. Why don't we establish the quorum and I will comment later.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The clerk will call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

[Quorum No. 1]

Ashcroft	Fitzgerald	Nickles
Baucus	Frist	Reed
Bennett	Grams	Reid
Bingaman	Hagel	Robb
Bryan	Hollings	Roberts
Bunning	Hutchinson	Santorum
Byrd	Jeffords	Sessions
Campbell	Kennedy	Snowe
Cochran	Kyl	Specter
Collins	Landrieu	Stevens
Craig	Lautenberg	Thomas
Daschle	Levin	Thompson
DeWine	Lott	Thurmond
Dodd	Lugar	Voinovich
Domenici	Mack	Warner
Dorgan	McConnell	Wyden
Enzi	Moynihan	
Feinstein	Murkowski	

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be

dispensed with. I believe we have established a quorum and can proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. A quorum is present.

NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT THE SENATE IS READY TO PROCEED TO BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk notifying the President of the United States that the Senate is now ready to proceed to business, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 242) notifying the President the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

There being no objection, the resolution (S. Res. 242) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 242

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the President of the United States that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

NOTIFYING THE HOUSE THAT THE SENATE IS READY TO PROCEED TO BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk notifying the House that the Senate is now ready to proceed to business, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 243) notifying the House the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

There being no objection, the resolution (S. Res. 243) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 243

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period for the transaction of morning business until 6 p.m., with Members permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe the Democratic leader will be here momentarily. Senator DASCHLE had started to make a speech earlier when we first started the quorum call. I believe he will be here momentarily to deliver his remarks. I call on other Senators who have been prepared to make remarks. I believe Senator MACK and perhaps several others would like to make remarks before the Senate concludes business today. I am glad we have established a quorum and are now ready to proceed.

I again remind Senators we will be in session on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. They should expect votes possibly during the day on Tuesday and possibly several votes on Wednesday.

It is our hope at this time that we can reach an agreement on how to proceed on the bankruptcy bill and we will be able to get an agreement on that and complete that bill which was carried over from the first session of this 106th Congress, and hopefully we could finish it by Wednesday night. There has been an indication, I believe on both sides of the aisle, we hope we could do that. So that would be our desire.

With regard to the matter of the young boy from Cuba, Elian Gonzalez, again what happens there will depend on events. Senator MACK will surely speak to that when he arrives in the Chamber.

Then at some point next week we will initiate proceedings on the nuclear waste bill also.

Those would be the first three issues we have pending before us. We will confer with the Democratic leadership and work on the bills that will be considered after that.

Mr. President, since Senator DASCHLE has not arrived just yet, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1999

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (S. 1999) for the private relief of Elian Gonzalez Brotons.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I now ask for its second reading.